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admission to a Section 214 covered program, evidence of eligible status is required to be submitted in accordance with the requirements of this subpart unless the family already has submitted the evidence to the responsible entity for a Section 214 covered program.

(5) *One-time evidence requirement for continuous occupancy.* For each family member, the family is required to submit evidence of eligible status only one time during continuously assisted occupancy under any Section 214 covered program.

(h) *Extensions of time to submit evidence of eligible status—(1) When extension must be granted.* The responsible entity shall extend the time, provided in paragraph (g) of this section, to submit evidence of eligible immigration status if the family member:

(i) Submits the declaration required under §5.508(a) certifying that any person for whom required evidence has not been submitted is a noncitizen with eligible immigration status; and

(ii) Certifies that the evidence needed to support a claim of eligible immigration status is temporarily unavailable, additional time is needed to obtain and submit the evidence, and prompt and diligent efforts will be undertaken to obtain the evidence.

(2) *Thirty-day extension period.* Any extension of time, if granted, shall not exceed thirty (30) days. The additional time provided should be sufficient to allow the individual the time to obtain the evidence needed. The responsible entity's determination of the length of the extension needed shall be based on the circumstances of the individual case.

(3) *Grant or denial of extension to be in writing.* The responsible entity's decision to grant or deny an extension as provided in paragraph (h)(1) of this section shall be issued to the family by written notice. If the extension is granted, the notice shall specify the extension period granted (which shall not exceed thirty (30) days). If the extension is denied, the notice shall explain the reasons for denial of the extension.

(i) *Failure to submit evidence or to establish eligible status.* If the family fails to submit required evidence of eligible immigration status within the time pe-

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riod specified in the notice, or any extension granted in accordance with paragraph (h) of this section, or if the evidence is timely submitted but fails to establish eligible immigration status, the responsible entity shall proceed to deny, prorate or terminate assistance, or provide continued assistance or temporary deferral of termination of assistance, as appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of §§5.514, 5.516, and 5.518.

(ii) [Reserved]

[61 FR 13616, Mar. 27, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 60538, Nov. 29, 1996; 64 FR 25731, May 12, 1999]

§5.510 Documents of eligible immigration status.

(a) *General.* A responsible entity shall request and review original documents of eligible immigration status. The responsible entity shall retain photocopies of the documents for its own records and return the original documents to the family.

(b) *Acceptable evidence of eligible immigration status.* Acceptable evidence of eligible immigration status shall be the original of a document designated by INS as acceptable evidence of immigration status in one of the six categories mentioned in §5.506(a) for the specific immigration status claimed by the individual.

[61 FR 13616, Mar. 27, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 60539, Nov. 29, 1996; 64 FR 25731, May 12, 1999]

§5.512 Verification of eligible immigration status.

(a) *General.* Except as described in paragraph (b) of this section and §5.514, no individual or family applying for assistance may receive such assistance prior to the verification of the eligibility of at least the individual or one family member. Verification of eligibility consistent with §5.514 occurs when the individual or family members have submitted documentation to the responsible entity in accordance with §5.508.

(b) *PHA election to provide assistance before verification.* A PHA that is a responsible entity under this subpart may elect to provide assistance to a family before the verification of the

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eligibility of the individual or one family member.

(c) *Primary verification*—(1) *Automated verification system*. Primary verification of the immigration status of the person is conducted by the responsible entity through the INS automated system (INS Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE)). The INS SAVE system provides access to names, file numbers and admission numbers of noncitizens.

(2) *Failure of primary verification to confirm eligible immigration status*. If the INS SAVE system does not verify eligible immigration status, secondary verification must be performed.

(d) *Secondary verification*—(1) *Manual search of INS records*. Secondary verification is a manual search by the INS of its records to determine an individual's immigration status. The responsible entity must request secondary verification, within 10 days of receiving the results of the primary verification, if the primary verification system does not confirm eligible immigration status, or if the primary verification system verifies immigration status that is ineligible for assistance under a Section 214 covered program.

(2) *Secondary verification initiated by responsible entity*. Secondary verification is initiated by the responsible entity forwarding photocopies of the original INS documents required for the immigration status declared (front and back), attached to the INS document verification request form G-845S (Document Verification Request), or such other form specified by the INS to a designated INS office for review. (Form G-845S is available from the local INS Office.)

(3) *Failure of secondary verification to confirm eligible immigration status*. If the secondary verification does not confirm eligible immigration status, the responsible entity shall issue to the family the notice described in §5.514(d), which includes notification of the right to appeal to the INS of the INS finding on immigration status (see §5.514(d)(4)).

(e) *Exemption from liability for INS verification*. The responsible entity shall not be liable for any action, delay, or failure of the INS in con-

ducting the automated or manual verification.

[61 FR 13616, Mar. 27, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 60539, Nov. 29, 1996; 64 FR 25731, May 12, 1999]

§5.514 Delay, denial, reduction or termination of assistance.

(a) *General*. Assistance to a family may not be delayed, denied, reduced or terminated because of the immigration status of a family member except as provided in this section.

(b) *Restrictions on delay, denial, reduction or termination of assistance*—(1) *Restrictions on reduction, denial or termination of assistance for applicants and tenants*. Assistance to an applicant or tenant shall not be delayed, denied, reduced, or terminated, on the basis of ineligible immigration status of a family member if:

(i) The primary and secondary verification of any immigration documents that were timely submitted has not been completed;

(ii) The family member for whom required evidence has not been submitted has moved from the assisted dwelling unit;

(iii) The family member who is determined not to be in an eligible immigration status following INS verification has moved from the assisted dwelling unit;

(iv) The INS appeals process under §5.514(e) has not been concluded;

(v) Assistance is prorated in accordance with §5.520; or

(vi) Assistance for a mixed family is continued in accordance with §§5.516 and 5.518; or

(vii) Deferral of termination of assistance is granted in accordance with §§5.516 and 5.518.

(2) *Restrictions on delay, denial, reduction or termination of assistance pending fair hearing for tenants*. In addition to the factors listed in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, assistance to a tenant cannot be delayed, denied, reduced or terminated until the completion of the informal hearing described in paragraph (f) of this section.

(c) *Events causing denial or termination of assistance*—(1) *General*. Assistance to an applicant shall be denied, and a tenant's assistance shall be terminated, in accordance with the procedures of this